

ENGLISH BOOKS

1641 - 1700

M1479
M1488
M2011
M2301

M2318
M2484
M2949
M3013

(1)



TO HIS ROYALL HIGHNESSE
The
DUKE OF YORKE.

On our late Sea-fight.



WARRE, the Supreme Decider of a Cause (Lawes;
Where wrongs are grown too bold, and strong for
And where no power of Justice can prevaile,
Lesse then an armed Fleet, and conquering Sayle,
Ingag'd our English Okes (which long had stood
The peacefull shades, and Glories of the Wood,
And whose large ribs afforded harmlesse Beames
For other Buildings, then what float on streames)
In Nobler, and more Hostile shapes to meet,
A farre more numerous but ignobler Fleet.
And, having first appeal'd to Heaven, did fight
Their Countries sufferings with their Princes might.
Both Navies, when they first appear'd in view,
Lookt like two Forrests which in Waters grew.

A

But

But when their threatenng Wings by Windes inspir'd,
 Drew neer, they lookt like guarded Castles fir'd.
 The Wide-mouth Canons loud Defiance spoke,
 Like burning Aetna's which from Broad-sides broke.
 Or like Vesuvius, whose Sulphureous-Breath
 Did vomit flames wrapt up in Clouds of Death.

The Engineer, who first found out the skill
 Of teaching powder, like the Plague, to kill;
 And to the furious Sword, by which Men fall,
 Added new waies of Death, the murthering Ball,
 Might here his horrid Wit, and Art admire,
 By seeing Bullets shot from ranks of Fire.

Destruction manag'd by strict rules, and formes,
 And Ruine taught to fly in loaden stormes.
 Slaughters for slaughters in straight Lines return'd,
 And Ships by Ships in well set order burn'd.
 Each Vessel with a steering Pilot sunke,
 But where the steerer was Hollandicke drunke.

Never did horror in more various dresse
 The severall Fates of dying men expresse.
 They, whom their wooden Walls secur'd a while,
 Found their Defence chang'd to their funerall pile.
 The greedy Ocean in his ravenous Wombe,
 Swallow'd a Caper like a flaming Tombe.
 Where the inclos'd did by two deaths expire,
 At once drown'd by the Sea, and burnt by fire.

Bodies

(3)

Bodies dismembred did the Hatches spread,
 Here lay a Legge shot off, there Arme, and Head.
 At the last Day 'twould pose a Schoolmans Wit,
 How Limbs thus scatter'd should unite, and knit.
 The Sea was dreadfull, on whose trembling waves
 The living swamme for Life, the dead for Graves.
 The Waters which once drown'd a numerous Host,
 In waves of blood on the Arabian coast,
 Were not more red, the floating bodies such,
 Only Egyptians were here turn'd to Dutch.

Ships, which had oft voyed Travels with the Sun,
 Out-sail'd his lines, beyond his Tropicks run,
 And measur'd all the distance of the way,
 Where East begins, and West shuts up the Day,
 From the Worlds adverse Hemispheres did here
 To fight the Empire of the Sea appeare.
 Opposing Reparation against Stealth,
 And Monarchy against a Commonwealth.

The English Courage which with bended Yem
 At Agincourt vast Legions overthrew,
 And with their feather'd shafts, sent from a string,
 At Poictiers conquer'd France, and took their King,
 Like Valour of Inheritance, which runnes
 From Warlike parents in the brest of sonnes,
 Possess our Seamens Hearts, who did farre more
 Then their bold Fathers on the land and shore.

A 2

There

*There Archers, with their Bowes, maintain'd the fight.
 Here Cannons might the greatest Courage fright.
 Yet our men, like true Souldiers of the blood,
 Outfac'd the danger, and untrembling stood.
 Nay with the same Alacritie did fight,
 As Bridegrooms feast upon their Marriage night.
 Despis'd their Wounds, and for more Wounds did crie,
 And call'd it conquest for their Prince to die.*

*Nor did they owe this Courage to the Vine,
 Or take their Inspiration from their Wine.
 No Zealand Liquor brew'd at Amsterdam,
 Warm'd their cold hearts with Artificiall flame:
 Our sober valours beat their drunken, who
 Came doubly Arm'd with Guns and Brandee too;
 And who compell'd to fight against their will,
 Made their Recruits of Courage from the Still.*

*The Battle of Lepanto was a Theme
 For vulgar Wits, a Sea-fight in a Dreame:
 Where the Corinthian and the Africk shores
 Saw Christian Boates ingage with Turkish Oares.*

*Like children of the Sea, the Belgicke powers,
 United in one strength, here fronted ours.
 The Timber of all Nations here did meet
 Like all Religions in this Belgicke Fleet.
 The Luca Oke, and French, nay English Wood,
 Against our Oke in Opposition stood*

Trees

(3)

Trees bought of Traytors in rebellious times
 Added new Treason to the sellers Crimes,
 And false from their first Loyalty did bring
 Sides which bore Armes against their Native King,
 Forgetting, like their New-made States aboard,
 What Country Trees they were, or who their Lord.
 The Clouds above, where Thunders are begot,
 Heard greater Thunders from our Cannons shot,
 And seeing other Clouds put out the light,
 Wonder'd to see None thus transform'd to Night,
 Taking at once from the Spectators Eye
 The sight both of the Fighters and the Skie,
 This Darknesse, which did from black Lightning Spring
 Made conquest hover with a doubtfull Wing,
 Whil'st in this Smoke confusion, feares did rise
 How to distinguish Friends from Enemies,
 But when the silent Guns left off to play,
 And parting Mists once more recall'd the Day,
 Bright Victorie came to our Sea-mens view,
 Whose work was not to fight now, but pursue,
 And chase the theevish Fleet, or flying rout
 Home to their Den from whence they Theeves came out.

Great Providence, whose Justice long did sleep,
 On this great day show'd VVonders in the Deep.
 It was a day of Judgment, where the guilt
 Of English blood at sad Amboina spilt,

P.B. 45.

The

The Robberies at Guinye, and Bantam,
 With all the Villanies of Amsterdam,
 (Whose Piracies did through the Ocean run,
 As farre as Windes blow, or Eyes see the Sun,
 And where the States by plunder'd Merchants Wealth
 Grew to be High and Mighty Lords in stealth)
 For satisfaction, and Revenge did call,
 In every fir'd Ship, and sunk Admirall.
 Old Thefts committed on the Indian shoates
 Here paid their publick Debts, and clear'd their scores.

Mean time, to show the Justice of our Cause,
 Who fought with those who broke all Nations Lawes,
 The Elements did on our side conspire,
 Like Seas in pension, or like list'd Fire.
 The Starres fought in their Courses, and the Winde
 Helpt to assist the Quarrell of Mankind.

O Royall Charles, whose Territories lie
 Both in your Subjects Hearts, and in the Skie!
 Since, like your other Subjects kept in pay,
 Where you command the Windes, and Seas Obey!

Base Dutch, whose Linage is the same with Frogs,
 Created out of mists, and hatcht from Boggs,
 Could you believe the Elements were made,
 To serve as Engines to your cousening Trade?
 Or that the Waters were at your Command,
 Whorob'd the Fish of Water, Sea of Land?

Whose

(7)

Whose very Dwellings stand on pilfer'd Ground,
 Your Country one great Theft, which Seas once drown'd?
 Or that the breath of Heaven would be confin'd
 To swell your Sailes, and be Piraticke Winde?
 How durst you thus all Countries rights invade,
 And call your Thefts, and Usurpations Trade?
 You might as well Monopolize the Skies,
 And claime the Sun-beams, as your Marchandize;
 Forbid the Tides to rolle, or winds to blow,
 But where your Capers saile, or long Boats row,
 As thus bind up the Worlds great Rode in Chaines,
 And make the Sea a servant to your Gaines.

And now, Great Prince, whose celebrated Name
 Fill'd France and Flanders with your early Fame,
 Which did deserve the stile of Generall,
 Even then when Ladies might you Lady call:
 Had the great Prince of Poets, (Homer,) seen
 This Sea-fight you had his Achilles been,
 And held a place among his Warlike Kings,
 Whose lasting Quill immortall Battles sings.
 Or had Augustus, when from Actium fleet
 He rode in Triumph through the Roman street,
 Leading his Captives through a shining Arch,
 Through which Himself did, crown'd with Lawrel, march,
 Seen this daies Fight, which Actium did outdoe,
 He had resign'd his Arch, and Bayes to you.

B 2

Who